

## **AVOIDING PSEUDO INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL**

**Andi Anto Patak<sup>ab</sup>, Sahril<sup>b\*</sup>, Hamimah Abu Naim<sup>a</sup>**

<sup>a</sup>Measurement and Evaluation, Faculty of Education, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

<sup>b</sup>Fakultas Bahasa dan Sastra, Universitas Negeri Makassar, Indonesia

\*e-mail: [sahrilfbsunm@gmail.com](mailto:sahrilfbsunm@gmail.com)

### **ABSTRACT**

This paper described the simple technique of avoiding pseudo international journal, selecting the real international journal, and the role of lecturer as academic advisor. Some recommendations on the importance of Indonesian repository and lecturer's role in creating research culture to promote publication ethics are offered. It is also recommended for lecturer to provide technical support in referencing, collecting data, and analysing the research.

**KEYWORDS:** Pseudo, predatory, journal

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

In recent years, the outstanding issue of the pseudo journal in academics environment was shocked by article publications on African Journal of Agricultural Research, Volume 7, issue 28, July 2012 in which the second and third authors were two Indonesian celebrities. The first author was untraceable aliases false identity. Author kicks this horrendous article lists "Institute of Dangdut" as research institutions and "Jalan Tersesat, No.100, Jakarta 10000 Indonesia" as the corresponding address (Utomo, 2012). The academic world was astonished, of course, with a variety of responses. A well known research librarian in the United States responded by writing an article about the predatory journal entitle title: "Predatory Publishers are Corrupting Open Access " which published in the popular journal, Nature, Volume 489, issue 179, September 2012 (Beall, 2012) .

This is one of the weaknesses of online journal although it is clearly mentioned on the journal website that all submitted article will be sent to reviewers and assessed by the editors. The common statement that has attracted authors' interest getting published in pseudo journal is "This journal indexed in Scopus, ProQuest, EBSCO, ISI web of knowledge, etc." Although the pseudo journal can be indexed on these indexes, the monitoring team for publication ethics evaluates regularly to decide the status of each journal. Indeed, certain journal which against the publication ethics will be banned. Thus, we sometimes find some journals are discontinued to be indexed in Scopus as well as other indexes.

Pseudo journal become a lucrative business opportunity for the publications mafia, but doom for prospective professors. For publication mafia, it is enough to rent web space to make hundreds of online journals instantly. They ping the email on Internet and send a message by offering rapid publication plus a very simple process. Unfortunately, this pseudo journal is disastrous for the Doctors who have an urgent need to be a Professor. They become casualties because the research results published in the pseudo journals are banned by the Directorate of Higher Education Indonesia. Getting published in International journal is required for a lecturer to be promoted as a Professor.

This condition is triggered by the intense competition publication in the reputable journal. Publication in popular scientific journals with good reputation is normally within 4 to 6 month review processes. However, the articles which reach at this step are only few numbers from thousands of other queued articles that makes many authors feel disappointment. In the first week of paper submission, many authors get responses that their papers are rejected for publication. The journal editor cannot continue to the next step of the review process due to intense competition with other articles.

For writers who panic due to their article rejected in popular journals, they finally choose another alternative which much easier to get published. Articles that have been rejected in the popular journal are eventually sent to the online pseudo journal. In the next few weeks, a new email has been in the inbox informing that the article will be published after paying the publication fee. Oddly, the author of this article is asked to send money to another country, not to the address as in the website. Even more ridiculous, as these writers get stuck, they were asked to be a reviewer. Many amateur writers send papers because they trust the Doctor and Professor as the reviewers and editors. They do not realize that the inclusion of their name is subjected to marketing trick. Another extreme example is the article submitted in the morning and immediately accepted in the afternoon. The admin journal informs the author that article will be published soon after the journal receives the publication fee.

Articles in scientific journals not merely contain original sentence and paragraph, but also they must have a novelty that contributes significantly to the development of knowledge. Of course, other elements, such as the use of references in the literature review, research methods, research design, the data collection, and data analysis are strictly forbidden to be manipulated. However, many journals do the manipulation for the business reason only.

## **2 DETECTING PSEUDO INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL**

Pseudo journal issue are horrendous and appalling for academic life throughout the world, this phenomena encourage a Jeffrey Bealls, a senior librarian at the University of Colorado, Denver, USA to conduct research on predatory publisher. Jeffrey Bealls is an expert in the field of metadata, full-text searching, and information retrieval. Jeffrey Bealls has written more than 70 titles of since 2001. His works can be accessed in Google Scholar.

Black-list journal version listed by Jeffrey Bealls has been being a debatable for predatory publishers. This black list has been a hard slap and a shock therapy for the rogue publishers. Scientists should be smart by avoiding to get published in predatory publisher.

Detecting pseudo journal is very easy in today's most popular search engines, Google, by inserting keyword "predatory open access publishers". By default, the list of publishers and pseudo journals compiled by Jeffrey Bealls appears on the first page. This list has been a standard for Directorate of Higher Education of the Republic of Indonesia to reject the documents submission sent by lecturers to be professors. It is undeniable that many teachers, lecturers, and researchers are lack of information about the black list journal or publisher. Although the article is written based on the results of research, this article remains the problems to achieve the world's highest academic awards due to wrong way of choosing to get published.

However, there are many other pseudo journal are not listed in predatory journals or publishers by Jeffrey Beall's. Another way to detect pseudo journal is detecting the journal link, paying attention to Editorial Board, many pseudo journals do not list even a single name in Editorial Board. There are also some experts whose name listed in Editorial Board without approval. Another pseudo journal editor remains anonymous affiliation, email, address, and a number of other questionable issues.

## **3 SELECTING THE REAL INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL**

Before sending the article to journal, it is vitally important to determine whether our expectation is sending the article to the first or second class journal. Journal preference will determine journal review deadlines and level of reviewer criticality. Articles submitted to reputable journals will be processed by the admin then selected early by the Managing Editor. The next process followed by a review by Controlling Editor. After the approval from the Controlling Editor (expert), Editor in Chief will send the two blind reviewers the article for review objectivity. This is a standard procedure for well-known journals. As a result, sending article to the well known journal requires extra patience because after waiting for a long time, the article will be returned to the author for revision. Furthermore, the authors will send a revised article to the editor. The result of these revisions will be reviewed again; lucky author will be notified that her/his article will be published based on the journal publication schedule. Starting

from the time of sending the article until publication usually takes about 1 year comparing to pseudo journal which process the article for publication within a week.

The simplest way to determine the quality of the journal is choosing journals published by established publishers', such as Elsevier, JSTOR, Sage, Taylor & Francis Group, Emerald, Springer, Cambridge Journal, Oxford Journal and other publishers under Committee on Publication Ethics association (COPE, 1997). Journal which published by these publishers can be classified based on their Impact Factor by Thomson Reuters that evaluates the average frequency of each article in a journal cited by other reputable journals. The higher the Impact Factor assumed the higher the quality of the journal. This prompted the emergence of a conspiracy to boost the Impact Factor to make each citing syndicate.

#### **4 THE ROLE OF LECTURER AS AN ACADEMIC ADVISOR**

Ironically, lecturers should play a role as a filter to prevent the student from sending article to pseudo journal, but the fact proves that many lecturers getting published in the predatory journal. Lecturers are required to be more cautious than students in accessing information. Students' supervisor should play a role as students' mentor in referencing, collecting, data, and analysing the research results. Thus, the supervisor is expected to be responsible as the second author in a research article written by a student, which will be published in national or international journal. Supervisor is required to be responsive in guiding students conducting research. Supervisor must demonstrate the seriousness when guiding the process of writing scientific papers of students under her/his supervision.

Minister of Education of the Republic of Indonesia on several occasions explained that the obligation of scientific publications for students is an effort to build responsible character. Of course, supervisor as second author on a scientific article will guide students choosing the suitable journal. This is vitally important to avoid sending article to pseudo journal that can break the students and lecturers career.

#### **5 MAXIMIZING THE INDONESIAN ACADEMIC DATABASE**

Indonesian academician expects both Indonesian Citation Index (ICI) and the Indonesian Publication Index (IPI) as a national database can continue working together to promote a culture of research and provide the qualified journal to be cited or downloaded directly from these repositories. ICI is a joint project between the Directorate General of Higher Education Indonesia (DIKTI) and Institute Teknologi Bandung (ITB), whereas IPI is a project between the DIKTI and the University of Ahmad Dahlan (Institute of Advanced Engineering and Science, 2013; LPPM Institut Teknologi Bandung, 2007). Supervisor, of course, is expected to instil the importance of ethics in publications to students in order to create Indonesian scholars who have academic integrity. In addition, lecturer can introduce "Mendeley" as a new worldwide academic database that covers all discipline (Patak and Akib, 2012; Zaugg et al. 2011).

#### **6 CONCLUSION**

Pseudo journal become a lucrative business opportunity for publications mafia, but disaster for prospective professors. For publication mafia, they are enough to rent web space and can instantly make hundreds of online journals. Issues on the pseudo journals have been horrendous and appalling academic life throughout the world encourage Jeffrey Bealls, a senior librarian at the University of Colorado, Denver to make a list of predatory publishers and individual journal. Even more important is the role of the supervisor must demonstrate her/his seriousness when guiding students in the process of writing scientific papers. Finally, government should hand in hand with Indonesian scientists to respond the pseudo journal temptation by real action.

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